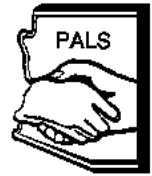




INFORMATION SHEET

Parent Information Network



Orthopedic Impairment

What is an Orthopedic Impairment?

Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS) §15-761(19) states: " 'Orthopedic impairment' means one or more severe orthopedic impairments and includes those that are caused by congenital anomaly, disease and other causes, such as amputation or cerebral palsy, and that adversely affect a child's performance in the educational environment."

Examples of orthopedic impairments (OI) that may be caused by birth defects are clubfoot, spina bifida, brachial plexus/erb's palsy, and absence of, or malformation of one or more limbs. Orthopedic impairments that may be caused by disease include muscular dystrophy, arthritis, and childhood obesity. Other causes of orthopedic impairment may include fractures, which cause stiff and/or immovable joints called contractures.

A student is determined eligible for special education services if: 1) the criteria of the state definition of a student with an orthopedic impairment is met, 2) the multidisciplinary evaluation team (MET) determines that the orthopedic impairment negatively impacts a student's educational performance, and 3) the child is in need of special education and/or related services to benefit from his/her education.

Occasionally there may be a student who has been in an accident and has broken bones; he/she may be eligible under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 for a temporary placement while healing from the injuries.

How Common is an Orthopedic Impairment?

In the 2004-05 school year, 679 students in Arizona were classified as having orthopedic impairments and received special education services. This number represents 0.60% of the 1,053,506 students enrolled in Arizona public schools as of October 1, 2004, and accounts for 0.56% of the total special education population.

What Effect Does an Orthopedic Impairment Have on a Child?

Some students are only mildly affected by their orthopedic impairment. Children who are moderately or severely affected may have difficulty with coordination, the ability to move, stamina, communication, or learning. Many times adjustments can be made in the environment and instruction, and special education may not be needed in

order for the child to make enough academic progress. Others may be extremely limited in their activities and learning, and may require intensive medical and/or educational assistance.

Educational services are provided in a variety of settings including regular classrooms, resource rooms, special classes, hospitals, the home, or special schools. The unique academic needs of each student, and required related services, are important considerations in determining placement in the least restrictive environment (LRE) for the student. Related services may include such things as assistive technology, special transportation, environmental adaptations, adaptive physical education, cognitive therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, or school health services. Communication with the school will be extremely important for the success of any necessary therapies or modifications in the environment.

The IEP team should be considering assistive technology (AT) along with other special factors. Orthopedic impairments usually require a more extensive evaluation to identify the child's unique educational needs.

References

National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities. (2000). *General information about cerebral palsy, fact sheet #2*. Washington, DC: NICHCY.

March of Dimes. (2004). *Professionals and Researcher's Quick Reference and Fact Sheets: Birth Defects*. www.modimes.org/professionals/681_1206.asp

Resources

Books

Arthritis Foundation. (2004). *Safe or sorry: What parents need to know about kids and sports injuries*. Atlanta, GA. Author.

Arthritis Foundation. (2004). *Raising a child with arthritis: A parent's guide*. Atlanta, GA. Author.

Geralis, E. (1998). *Children with cerebral palsy: A parent's guide*. Rockville, MD: Woodbine Books.

Sandler, A. & Bedick, P. (2004). *Living with spina bifida: A guide for families and professionals*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press.

Thompson, C. & Thompson, M.D. (1999). *Raising a child with a neuromuscular disorder: A guide for parents, grandparents, friends, and professionals*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Evelof, Steven. (2000). *Both sides of the white coat*. Lincoln, NB: iUniverse, Incorporated.

Videos

Video and book lending library bibliography. Special Needs Center, Phoenix Public Library, Phoenix, AZ, www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org/snc.jsp?lwbid=6027

2005 *Audio-visual catalog*. Parent Information Network, Arizona Department of Education, Phoenix, AZ, www.ade.az.gov/ess/pinspals/downloads/AVCATALOG.pdf

Organizations/Hotlines/Web Sites

Arc of Arizona, 5610 S. Central Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85040 602-243-1787, 800-252-9054, www.arcarizona.org

Arizona Governor's Council on Spinal and Head Injuries, 10640 N. 28th Dr., Ste. B-102, Phoenix, AZ 85029, 602-863-0484, www.azheadspine.org

Arthritis Foundation, 1313 E. Osborn, Ste. 200, Phoenix, AZ 85014, 602-264-7679, 800-477-7679; 434 S. Williams Blvd. #200, Tucson, AZ 85711-7405, 520-917-7070, www.arthritis.org

Easter Seals of Arizona, 800-626-6061, www.easter-seals.org/

Enhancing Arizona's Parent Networks (EAPN) www.ade.az.gov/ess/eapn

March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation, www.modimes.org
1616 E. Indian School Rd., Suite # 200, Phoenix, AZ 85016, 602-266-9933; 7290 E. Broadway, Suite G2, Tucson, AZ 85710, 520-298-5490

Multiple Sclerosis Society, 315 South 48th Street, Suite 101, Tempe, AZ 85281, 480-968-2488, www.nmss.org, www.nationalmssociety.org/aza

Muscular Dystrophy Association - USA, National Headquarters, 3300 E. Sunrise Drive, Tucson, AZ 85718, 800-572-1717, www.mdausa.org

National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (NICHY) P.O. Box 1492, Washington, DC 20013-1492, 800-695-0285, www.nichcy.org

National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS), www.niams.nih.gov

National Spinal Cord Injury Association www.spinalcord.org

Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs, 150 N. 18th Avenue, Suite 330, Phoenix, AZ 85007, 602-542-1001, www.azdhs.gov/phs/ocshcn/crs/crs_az.htm

Parent Information Network, Arizona Department of Education, Exceptional Student Services, 1535 W. Jefferson St. Phoenix, AZ 85007, (602) 542-3854, 800-352-4558, www.ade.az.gov/ess/pinspals

Pilot Parents of Southern Arizona, 2600 N. Wyatt, Tucson, AZ 85712, 520-324-3150, 877-365-7220, www.pilotparents.org/

Raising Special Kids, 2400 N. Central Ave, Ste. 200, Phoenix, AZ 85004, 602-242-4366, 800-237-3007, www.raisingpecialkids.org

Spina Bifida Association of America, Arizona Chapter, 1001 E. Fairmont, Phoenix, AZ 85034, 602-274-3323, www.azspinabifida.org

United Cerebral Palsy, 3941 E. 29th St., Tucson, AZ 85711, 520-795-3108, www.ucpsa.org

Williams Syndrome Association, P.O. Box 297, Clawson, MI 48017-0297, 800-806-1871, www.williams-syndrome.org

The contents of this publication were developed by Joyce Morris and revised in July 2005 by Tina Swearingen, Parent Information Network Specialist, under contract # ED05-0053-02, with funds allocated by the U.S. Department of Education under IDEA '97. The contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the agency, nor should endorsement by the federal government be assumed. The Arizona Department of Education of the State of Arizona does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs, activities or in its hiring and employment practices. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Debra K. Jackson, Deputy Associate Superintendent of Administrative Services, 1535 W. Jefferson, Phoenix AZ 85007, 602-542-3186. This document is in the public domain and may be freely reproduced in its current format. For more information, call the Parent Information Network at (602) 542-3852 or 800-352-4558. DR08